

Remarks

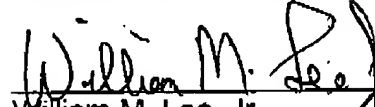
Applicants are very grateful to the Examiner for his careful examination of the application and for his indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's reasons for allowance. In particular, applicants have amended the claims such that they are now directed to the feature of measuring and transmitting power levels together with the digit values over the packet-based network.

The Examiner will note that the applicants have made some clarifying amendments including those suggested by the Examiner in paragraphs 1 to 4 of the Office Action. Furthermore, the Examiner will see that claims not having all of the limitations of intervening claims have been introduced. The Examiner will hopefully appreciate that some of these intervening limitations are not essential to the feature of measuring and transmitting a power level over the packet-based network. In particular, independent claims have been included which do not contain the limitation of re-encoding the multi-tone signals on egress from the packet-switched network. Applicants support this by pointing out that limiting the claims such that they include apparatus or steps performed at both sides of the packet-switched network would be unduly restrictive since the packet-switched network may often span multiple jurisdictions.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present claims are allowable in view of the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowability, and applicants look forward to receiving a Notice of Allowance in due course.

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Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)

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